

VZCZCXRO4574  
OO RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM  
DE RUEHJA #1845 2740420  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 300420Z SEP 08  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0233  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 3113  
RUCNTXD/AMEMBASSY MAJURO PRIORITY 0095  
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY 4027  
RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY 0203  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5452  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2289  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4965  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2558  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 3132  
RUEHBAD/AMCONSUL PERTH 1174  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 001845

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, EAP/ANP, DRL, DRL/AWH  
NSC FOR E.PHU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/30/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [PHUM](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: PAPUA -- PRISON BEATING A SERIOUS BUT ISOLATED  
INCIDENT

REF: A. JAKARTA 1555

[1](#)B. 07 JAKARTA 3248

Classified By: Dep/Pol/C Stanley Harsha, reasons 1.4 (b+d).

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: The September 22 beating of a Papuan prisoner--Ferdinand Package--was a serious but isolated incident, according to our contacts. Package has been treated for his injuries and remains with his family while the authorities attempt to persuade him to return to custody. Prison official have promised to take action against guards responsible for the assault. END SUMMARY

PRISONER BEATEN

[1](#)2. (C) On September 22, a prison guard severely beat a Papuan prisoner, Ferdinand Package, at Abepura Prison on the outskirts of Jayapura, the provincial capital. (Note: A court sentenced Package to 15 years in prison for his role in a violent March 2006 demonstration near Jayapura that left five members of the police and military dead.) Human rights activist Albert Rumbekwan told poloff that Package suffered injuries to his arms, legs and head. He lost sight in his right eye as a result of the beating.

THE AFTERMATH

[1](#)3. (C) After the beating prison officials transferred Package to a local hospital where his injuries were treated, according to Budi Hernawan, an official of the Jayapura Diocese Justice and Peace Secretariat (SKP) who is following the case. Package left the hospital on Sunday, September 28 and is currently staying with his parents near Jayapura. His family has told Hernawan and other human rights contacts that Package is afraid to return to the prison. Prison officials are negotiating with Package's family to convince him to return to custody.

[1](#)4. (C) Prison officials have moved quickly to deal with the situation, according to our contacts. They immediately removed the guard implicated in the beating from duty pending a full investigation. Prison officials also promised to punish any guard found culpable for the incident. According

to Hernawan, prison officials are working closely with several human rights organizations, including SKP, to ensure that local stakeholders have confidence in the investigation.

#### AN ISOLATED INCIDENT

15. (C) So far, the beating of Pakage remains an isolated incident. UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Manfred Nowak, who visited Indonesia in November 2007, found very little evidence of torture in Indonesian prisons--including those in Papua (ref B). Moreover, the recently appointed chief of Abepura Prison, Antonious Ayorbaba, is committed to improving conditions in the facility (ref A).

16. (C) That said, Abepura Prison faces some serious operational challenges. The facility, which dates from the Dutch colonial period, is deteriorating and overcrowded. Additionally, a local clan which holds traditional ownership claims on the land where the prison sits has pressured prison officials to hire unqualified clan members for prison jobs. One of these clan members--with a reputation for drunkenness and other forms of unprofessional behavior--has been identified as responsible for beating Pakage. Prison chief Ayorbaba has promised to ensure that all prison personnel are qualified and well trained, although achieving this will likely take some time.

HUME